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## CENTENARY OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.

The Society has received an invitation to be represented at the celebration of the centenary anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, on March nineteenth to twenty-first next. Mr. Edward Pennock, second vice-president of the American Microscopical Society, and Dr. H. L. Shantz, of Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C., have been named as delegates representing this society.

## A NEW ROTARY MICROTOME.

The Spencer Lens Company have recently come out with a new rotary microtome which obviates the difficulties inherent in the old rotary microtomes, and provides for cutting sections of uniform and even thickness with the same accuracy and delicacy that have heretofore been obtained only on the best sliding microtomes. Any person interested in such a microtome would do well to write the Spencer Lens Co. for circular describing this instrument.

## AN EARLY LETTER OF R. B. TOLLES.

In the light of the recent action of the Executive Committee of the American Microscopical Society to retain the administration of the Spencer-Tolles memorial fund within the Society and to begin using the income of the fund as soon as practicable as a memorial, the following letter, written by Mr. Tolles when he was twenty years of age, will prove interesting. It is furnished by the wife of the late Charles X. Dalton.

Canastota, June 30, '44.

My Dear Grandfather :

I handed a letter to Father while he was here to yourself, stating that I hoped to be in Conn. by this present time. You may not yet have received that letter; I now write for that reason and because I do not incur the expense of postage. Father then (when here) intended to be in Conn. soon to see you and hand you the letter. I imagine he has not gone as yet.

I had every reason to suppose when I borrowed the money of you last fall that I should be able to return it by the last spring past. The reason that I was and am not at present is, that I have not rec'd one half of my wages (at \$2 per week, and board and clothes out of that). The arrangement I made with Mr. Spencer was that there should be no stated times of payments, but rather at his convenience, as his orders are large and time inter-